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THE LOVE HOUR ✓

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By Gregory Rogers ✓

Scenario by Bess Meredyth ✓

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Synopsis

Two shop girls, Jennie Tibbs and Betty Brown, start bravely alone on a picnic, but meet two youths who insist on being knight errants for the day--Gus Yerger, an overfed, prosaic fellow, and "Kid" Lewis, so common that his lightest act is an annoyance to a girl of Betty's sensitive nature.

In a quiet bypath, separated from their companions, the "Kid" tries to kiss Betty. He is distasteful to her at best, so his kisses are not welcome. Fortunately though, assistance is near in the person of Rex Westmore, a bored and rich young man who happens to be going by in his car. He comes to the rescue of the girl, and her youthful appeal and beauty make him more indignant at the fellow who has offered her an affront.

He takes both girls home, and on the way is sufficiently charmed with Betty that he manages, easily enough, an appointment to see her again. They fall in love with each other. His friends are surprised as they had thought nothing could ever interest Rex again, but he is so happy that there is general rejoicing. He and Betty marry and go to Europe for a year. Shortly after the picnic day Jennie Tibbs marries Gus Yerger, her escort on that day.

On their homecoming Betty welcomes her friends to a dinner at the lovely Park Avenue mansion in which she and Rex are

to make their home. Jennie and Gus are there, as well as Ward Ralston, Rex Westmore's broker who manages his millions for him. This single, attractive man is charmed by Betty's beauty and even that first night makes bold to flirt with her. Westmore, happy in her love, is not alarmed at Ralston's attentions which to him seem innocent enough.

A few days after the dinner Ralston comes to Westmore's office with the news that the mine in which they had put everything had proved a failure and Westmore is ruined. Westmore collapses, and sinks into a serious illness. The doctor declares it is brain trouble and there is only one man in the world who can offer any possibility of a cure--that is a doctor in Switzerland, but the disastrous turn that their fortunes have taken makes it impossible for Betty to take him to that doctor. She loves her husband to distraction and has to face the fact that he may die unless she can provide money. In this Ward Ralston sees a situation that suits his purposes admirably.

He proffers the money but on condition that Betty let her husband go alone and she stay here to be near him. The thought is repugnant to Betty. However, her husband gets steadily worse and something must be done. Finally she consents to Ward Ralston's plan, but she feels she must convince her husband that she has a sufficient cause to stay at home. So she allows him to see that there is a flirtation between herself and Ralston. A desperate measure, but in a desperate situation.

Her husband is furious and insists that he will go off alone. Rex sails for Europe and then she has Ralston to reckon with. Finally she agrees to come to his apartment, but at the last moment she arms herself. Ralston has dinner ordered for two. It is storming

fiercely outside--lightning occasionally flashing through the windows. She has to meet Ralston's unwelcome advances, and when he tries to kiss her she attempts to fire at him. That minute lightning flashes into the room and there is a crash about him. He falls and Betty rushes home, feeling that she has killed him. She knows that there is only one place that any comfort awaits her and that is at home with her own people. So a few days later she arrives at the little upstate town where her father and mother live.

She collapses and falls into a long illness, worried over the fact that she believes she has killed Ralston. But on regaining consciousness again, she learns that he died of the stroke of lightning and she is blameless. Happiness comes thick and fast now, as did unhappy occurrences before. Her husband comes home cured, and has entirely forgiven her her apparent rashness as he has learned from his attorney of the sacrifice she nearly made for him. And he has learned, too, that the mine they had considered a "blowmer" is going to make a new fortune for him. He and Betty are united again and begin life over, more happy than ever.

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